

## Public Safety

### ***CRIME RATE***

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#### **THE OUTCOME**

A safe community for residents and visitors.

#### **THE MEASUREMENT**

Since 1930, the FBI has administered the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crimes. UCR is a system of uniform crime statistics, with standardized offense definitions for seven main offense classifications known as Part I crimes. The seven Part I offense classifications include the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Index crime rates are a calculation of index crimes relative to the population. They are expressed as index crimes per 1,000 population. The number of FBI index crime per 1,000 population is a standard measure used throughout the law enforcement community.

In addition to the overall FBI index crime rate, we also measure the rate separately for violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), and for property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) to help further identify strengths and weaknesses.

#### **WHAT THE DATA MEANS**

The index crime rate is one indicator of the level of crime in the community. The crime rate also reflects the effective strength of patrol and investigations in preventing crimes, citizens' attitudes toward crime, and crime reporting practices of the citizenry.

Some of the factors that influence crime rates include: population density; composition of the population, particularly youth concentration; population stability; commuting patterns; economic conditions such as median income, poverty level, and job availability; cultural factors; education levels; religious characteristics; family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness; and climate.

#### **DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED**

Citywide and Police

## BENCHMARK

The police department has established a benchmark to be within the lowest one-third of the county with regard to crime rates for overall crime, violent crimes, and property crimes. The police department uses San Diego County data since the factors that influence index crime data can vary greatly from state to state and even somewhat by county within California.

## RESULTS

|                | BENCHMARK        | CARLSBAD<br>MID-YEAR 2006 |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| OVERALL CRIME  | Bottom one-third | No                        |
| VIOLENT CRIME  | Bottom one-third | Yes                       |
| PROPERTY CRIME | Bottom one-third | No                        |

| Rank | City                  | Mid Year 2006<br>Overall<br>Index Crime<br>Rates |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 1    | Del Mar               | 55.70  |
| 2    | La Mesa               | 48.27  |
| 3    | National City         | 45.80  |
| 4    | El Cajon              | 40.61  |
| 5    | San Diego             | 39.08  |
| 6    | Escondido             | 37.62  |
|      |                       |  |
| 7    | Chula Vista           | 36.67  |
| 8    | Vista                 | 36.15  |
| 9    | Lemon Grove           | 34.85  |
| 10   | Oceanside             | 33.67  |
| 11   | Imperial Beach        | 32.65  |
| 12   | <b>Carlsbad</b>       | <b>28.96</b>                                     |
|      |                       |  |
| 13   | San Marcos            | 26.74  |
| 14   | Solana Beach          | 22.81  |
| 15   | Unincorporated        | 22.42  |
| 16   | Encinitas             | 21.94  |
| 17   | Santee                | 20.84  |
| 18   | Coronado              | 18.44  |
| 19   | Poway                 | 16.34  |
|      | <b>County Average</b> | <b>34.7</b>                                      |

| Rank                  | Mid Year 2006<br>Violent Crime Rates |             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
|                       | City                                 | Rate        |
| 1                     | National City                        | 8.88        |
| 2                     | Lemon Grove                          | 6.62        |
| 3                     | Imperial Beach                       | 6.46        |
| 4                     | Vista                                | 5.32        |
| 5                     | Escondido                            | 5.23        |
| 6                     | Oceanside                            | 5.16        |
|                       |                                      |             |
| 7                     | El Cajon                             | 5.00        |
| 8                     | San Diego                            | 4.79        |
| 9                     | Chula Vista                          | 4.50        |
| 10                    | La Mesa                              | 4.49        |
| 11                    | San Marcos                           | 4.01        |
| 12                    | Del Mar                              | 3.98        |
|                       |                                      |             |
| 13                    | <b>Carlsbad</b>                      | <b>3.43</b> |
| 14                    | Unincorporated                       | 2.99        |
| 15                    | Santee                               | 2.67        |
| 16                    | Encinitas                            | 2.52        |
| 17                    | Poway                                | 1.19        |
| 18                    | Coronado                             | 1.07        |
| 19                    | Solana Beach                         | 0.90        |
| <b>County Average</b> |                                      | <b>4.4</b>  |

| Mid Year 2006<br>Property Crime Rates |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| City                                  | Rate         |
| Del Mar                               | 51.72        |
| La Mesa                               | 43.79        |
| National City                         | 36.92        |
| El Cajon                              | 35.62        |
| San Diego                             | 34.29        |
| Escondido                             | 32.39        |
|                                       |              |
| Chula Vista                           | 32.16        |
| Vista                                 | 30.83        |
| Oceanside                             | 28.52        |
| Lemon Grove                           | 28.23        |
| Imperial Beach                        | 26.19        |
| <b>Carlsbad</b>                       | <b>25.54</b> |
|                                       |              |
| San Marcos                            | 22.73        |
| Solana Beach                          | 21.91        |
| Unincorporated                        | 19.43        |
| Encinitas                             | 19.42        |
| Santee                                | 18.17        |
| Coronado                              | 17.37        |
| Poway                                 | 15.16        |
|                                       | <b>30.3</b>  |

#### ***CARLSBAD'S INDEX CRIME RATES: 1997 – 2006***

|          | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Overall  | 37.3        | 31.0        | 28.2        | 25.1        | 24.8        | 25.8        | 27.3        | 26.2        | 28.0        | 29.0        |
| Violent  | 4.2         | 3.0         | 2.6         | 2.2         | 2.4         | 2.4         | 2.9         | 2.9         | 2.7         | 3.4         |
| Property | 33.1        | 28.0        | 25.6        | 22.9        | 22.4        | 23.4        | 24.4        | 23.3        | 25.3        | 25.5        |

#### **ANALYSIS**

Carlsbad's mid-year 2006 overall crime rate (29.0) missed the bottom one-third of cities in the county benchmark by one place. Compared to 10 years ago (37.3 in 1997), the overall crime rate is lower. However, Carlsbad's overall crime rate has been increasing by small increments in four of the last

five years. Despite the increases, Carlsbad's overall crime rate is still significantly lower than the countywide overall crime rate of 34.7.

Carlsbad's mid-year 2006 violent crime rate (3.4) meets the bottom one-third of cities benchmark. Once again, Carlsbad's violent crime rate is lower in 2006 than it was ten years ago (4.2 in 1997). While the violent crime rate in Carlsbad has been increasing over the last five years, the 2006 rate remains lower than the countywide violent crime rate of 4.4.

The mid-year 2006 property crime rate (25.5) in Carlsbad misses the bottom one-third benchmark by one place. As with overall and violent crime, the property crime rate is lower than it was ten years ago, but has increased in the most recent five years. Carlsbad continues to come in well under the countywide property crime rate of 30.3.

Carlsbad has experienced rapid population growth in the last five years, compared to the County. From 2002 to 2006 Carlsbad's population has increased by 12.1%, while the county has grown 5%. Despite this rapid population growth, Carlsbad has maintained crime rates consistently lower than the countywide averages.

## **ACTION PLAN**

Crime rates in Carlsbad are closely monitored on a monthly basis. Comparisons to other San Diego cities and the county are made bi-annually. In order to meet the benchmark in all three categories, the department will study other factors that affect the crime rate and determine where the department can make changes. Staffing levels and changes in service demand and population.

- Changes in demographics that affect the crime rate. Factors to consider include population density, composition of the population, youth concentration, and population stability.
- Daytime population and commuting patterns and how they affect crime.

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